

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD U.S.-MEXICO BORDER REGION MONTHLY ROUND-UP

Volume 2, Number 12
February 2002



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from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
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Upcoming Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

- February 20-21 Calexico, CA
- June 5-6 El Paso, TX
- October 9-10 Nogales, AZ

Date and Location for Next Good Neighbor Meeting Changed

The date and location for the next meeting of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board has been changed. Formerly scheduled to take place from May 22-23 in Juarez, Mexico, the meeting now is scheduled to take place from June 5-6 in El Paso, Texas. A portion of the meeting will be devoted to dialogue with the Board's Mexican counterpart advisory group, Consejo. More details on the meeting site and agenda will follow.

First Meeting of 2002, in Calexico, CA, Generates Robust Dialogue on Energy and Water

The Board's recent meeting at the San Diego State University Imperial Valley Campus in Calexico, California, generated detailed discussions from a variety of perspectives on energy and water challenges facing the area. Board members and public attendees were greeted by Calexico Mayor Victor Carillo; Imperial County Board Chair Tony Tirado; and San Diego State University Imperial Valley Campus Dean Khosrow Fatemi. Speakers included the following: Steve Birdsall, Imperial County Air Pollution Control Officer; Jose Angel, Cal EPA Regional Water Quality Control Board; Kimberly Collins, CA Center for Border Region Economic Studies, San Diego State University; Orlando Martinez, Interger; Jesse Silva, Imperial Valley Irrigation District; Octavio Simoes; Sempra Energy Resources; Jorge Dominguez, CESP, Mexicali; Mary Belardo, Chair, Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla; and Michael Montgomery, EPA Region 9 Border Coordinator. The first day of the meeting also included an informative public comment session. On the second day of the meeting, Congressman Bob Filner briefed the Board on his environmental infrastructure priorities.

The meeting received media coverage from the Imperial Valley Press as well as KSWT Television of El Centro.

Border Region and National News

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Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.

Air - Awards - EPA Administrator Whitman honored 47 citizen, industry and government groups for their innovative efforts to clean air at the second Annual Clean Air Excellence Awards ceremony. Awardees from the four U.S. border states included the following: Playa Capital Company, LLC, Los Angeles, CA; Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Sacramento, CA; Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Flagstaff, AZ; Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Austin, TX; City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Dept, Los Angeles, CA; and Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Construction Authority, Los Angeles County, CA.

Power Plants - President Bush has announced the "Clear Skies" initiative, whose goal is to reduce emissions of three pollutants from power plants. The initiative is designed to use a market-based approach to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 73 percent, nitrogen oxides by 67 percent, and mercury by 60 percent over today's levels.

Standards - EPA has published interim toxic air emission standards and revised compliance provisions for hazardous waste incinerators and cement kilns. See www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/combust/preamble.htm

BECC - One Step 1 project was approved during January 2002: the LVWD Water Expansion and Upgrade Project in El Paso County. See www.cocof.org

Budget Request - President Bush's 2003 budget request includes \$21 million for a new program where EPA will work with its environmental partners to target 20 specific watershed projects for improvement; see www.epa.gov. Also, according to a separate recent article in Borderland News, the budget request also includes a "Colonias Gateway Initiative" to be administered through HUD.

CEC - Migratory Birds - The CEC is seeking information from the public (deadline June 30) for use in preparing a factual record on the United States' alleged failure to effectively enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in connection with two California cases. The submission was filed by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Center for International Environmental Law, Centro de Derecho Ambiental del Noreste de Mexico, Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, Friends of the Earth, Instituto de Derecho Ambiental, Pacific Environment and Resources Center, Sierra Club of Canada and West Coast Environmental Law Association.

Mexican DDT project - The CEC recently highlighted the success of the Mexican DDT initiative, in which CEC contributed US\$780,000 over a four-year period to help enable a reduction of DDT usage by 80 percent two years ahead of schedule. See www.cec.org.

Conservation - USDA has designated 20 areas in 17 states to receive technical assistance for conservation and enhancement as part of its Resource Conservation and Development. Two of these areas are along the U.S.-Mexico border. In California, a Southern Low Desert RC&D Council has been set up, which encompasses Imperial County as well as the eastern part of Riverside, as well as the eastern portion of San Diego. In Texas, the Rio Grande-Nueces RC&D Council covers the counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Zavala, and Val Verde.

EPA appointments - Adam Sharp has been named Associate Assistant Administrator for the EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances. Mr. Sharp's professional experience includes key positions in the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Habitat protection - EPA has issued a proposed regulation designed to reduce the number of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic life harmed or killed by the effects of withdrawing water from water bodies to cool power producing machinery. See www.epa.gov/ow.

Publication - The Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Project has published results of May 2001 workshop on "The Future of the U.S.-Mexico Border: Population, Development, and Water." See <http://ecsp.si.edu/tijuana.htm>

Request for Proposals - The Community-Based Collaboratives Research Consortium is requesting proposals for research and evaluation of community-based collaboratives concerned with management of natural resources. See <http://www/cbcrc.org/grants/html>.

Events Calendar

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*Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists. Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes..*

- Mar 7-8 CEC mtg. on Children's Health and the Environment in North America, Mexico City. See www.cec.org
- Mar 10-12 National Workshop on Researching and Evaluating Community-Based Collaboratives, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Karen Firehock, (434) 924-1970.
- Mar 13** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, Paso Del Norte women in the environmental field, El Paso, TX.
- Mar 14** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
- Mar 20** BECC Board of Directors meeting, Austin, TX. See www.cocof.org.
- Mar 22 New Mexico Water Conservation Day
- Mar 22 Presidents Bush and Fox meeting, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. (tentative)
- April 2-3** Annual EPA Border Enforcement Workshop (internal), San Diego, CA
- April 3 Brownfields Conference, Tucson, AZ.
- April 10** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, Evelyn Daniels, EPA R6, Children's Environmental Health, El Paso, TX.
- April 10** Forum on Environmental Health at the CA-Baja CA Border, Mexicali, BC.
- April 11** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
- May 6-8** Border Institute IV, Rio Rico, AZ. See www.scerp.org
- May 6-8 X International Meeting Expo Agua 2002, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. See www.smaac.org.mx/expoagua
- May 8** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, El Paso, TX.
- May 9** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House
- May 15-17 4th Conference on Research and Resource Management in the Southwestern Deserts, Tucson, AZ. See www.werc.usgs.gov/sdfs/meetings.html
- May 17-21 River Network's 3rd Annual River Rally, Asheville, NC. See www.rivernetwork.org
- May 20-24 Third National Water Quality Monitoring Conference; includes workshop on data comparability across international boundaries, Madison, WI. Contact: John Klein, USGS, (650)329-5264.
- May 22-24 Arizona-Mexico Commission Plenary Conference, Phoenix, AZ. See www.azmc.org
- June 4-7** U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association Annual Meeting, Chihuahua, Chihuahua
- June 5-6** Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, El Paso, TX.
- June CEC Annual Council Session, Ottawa, Ontario
- June 12** EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum, El Paso, TX.
- June 21-22** U.S.-Mexico Border Governors' Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- July 23-26 Universities Council on Water Resources Annual Conference, "Integrated Transboundary Water

Oct 9-10 Management," Traverse City, Michigan. See www.uwin.siu.edu/ucowr/
 Oct 21-23 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, Nogales, AZ
Nov 7-9 Race for Clean Water Conference 2002, Dover, DE. See www.dnrec.state.de
Nov 18-22 IV Meeting on the Border Environment, Tucson, AZ. See www.encuentrofronterizo.org
 Dec First International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Monterrey, MX. See www.TransboundaryWatersMexico.org
 Dec EPA National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum, San Antonio, TX.

2003
 Mar 16-23 The 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka, Japan. See www.worldwaterforum.org

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